

REMARKS

In the April 3, 2008 Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 6 stand rejected in view of prior art. On the other hand, claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-20 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the April 3, 2008 Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 3, 13 and 15 as indicated above. Also, Applicants have cancelled claims 7 and 16 as indicated above. Thus, claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-20 are now pending, with claims 1, 2, 3, 13 and 15 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,142,879 (Nakamura et al.). In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 7 (i.e., that the refrigerant has saturation pressure characteristics that are higher than those of R407C), which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, this rejection is now believed to be moot, and claims 1, 4 and 6 are now believed to be allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-20 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 7 as mentioned above, and cancelled claims 7 and 16 containing the same limitation. Thus, claims 1, 4 and 6 are now believed to be allowable as mentioned above.

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Also, claims 2, 3, 13 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form to accept the indicated allowable subject matter in claims 2, 3, 5, 8-15 and 17-20. Thus, claims 2, 3, 5, 8-15 and 17-20 are also believed to be allowable.

Prior Art Citation

In the Office Action, additional prior art references were made of record. Applicants believe that these references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-20 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patrick A. Hilsmier/
Patrick A. Hilsmier
Reg. No. 46,034

GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP
1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
(202)-293-0444
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